Dividends given in Indian Stock Market

†331. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of dividend earned from investments made in Indian Stock Market is more than dividend earned from investments made in Stock Markets of other countries;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the amount of dividend given in India on an average in May, 2009 in comparison to dividend earned from stock markets of developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Declaration of dividends by Companies depend on a variety of reasons such as profits earned by the company during the year, reserves, scope for ploughing back those profits into the business of company to enhance growth, cost of raising capital in the prevailing markets, the management's perception on market environment and fund raising, expectations of shareholders on dividend payout, tax environment, and general culture / track record of the particular company regarding dividend payout to shareholders. Therefore, it may not be possible to attribute any one factor to the trend in dividend payout by Indian companies as compared to foreign companies.

As per information available from stock exchanges, listed companies declared a dividend of Rs 15629.68 crore in May 2008 as against Rs 16908.24 crore for the month of May 2009. The comparative data for companies listed on foreign stock exchanges are not available with Government.

Global Economic Prospects for 2009

†332. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the World Bank's report 'Global Economic Prospects for 2009' one third population of India will be living in extreme poverty till 2015;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for poverty alleviation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the World Bank's report 'Global Economic Prospects 2009', 25.4 per cent of the population(313.2 million people) of India will be living on less than $1.25 per day while 57.9 per cent of the poputation(714.5 million people) will be living on less than $ 2 per day in 2015.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Government of India is implementing a number of programmes in order to eradicate poverty. The major schemes and programmes in this regard include National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), and Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). These are in addition to the benefits of increase in income arising from the general growth process.

Tax collection

333. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the direct and indirect Tax arrears as on 31 March, 2009;

(b) the total Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of public sector banks as on 31 March, 2009;

(c) the reserve and surplus of Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) as on 31 March, 2009;

(d) whether any part of the above is being targeted as investible surplus;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the total public investment in 2008-09 in agriculture, health, education and social security schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Negative rate of inflation

†334. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inflation rate had been negative at the end of week ending on 6 June, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prices of primary articles like cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables, sugar etc. have increased instead of decline; and

(d) if not, Government's reaction in this regard and what would be its impact on the common man's monthly budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The year-on-year inflation measured by WPI was negative at 1.6 per cent in the week ended June 6, 2009. In the three commodity groups of Primary articles, Fuel, power, light & lubricants and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.